

The Journal of The Royal College of General Practitioners

The British Journal of General Practice

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EDITORIAL NOTICE

Instructions to authors

Papers submitted for publication should not have been published before or be currently submitted to any other journal. They should be typed, on one side of the paper only, in double spacing and with generous margins. A4 is preferred paper size. The first page should contain the title, which should be as brief as possible, the name(s) of author(s), degrees, position, town of residence, and the address for correspondence.

Original articles should normally be no longer than 2,000 words, arranged in the usual order of summary, introduction, method, results, discussion, references, and acknowledgements. Short reports of up to 600 words are acceptable. Letters to the Editor should be brief — 400 words maximum.

Illustrations of all kinds, including photographs, are welcomed. Graphs and other line drawings need not be submitted as finished artwork — rough drawings are sufficient, provided they are clear and adequately annotated.

Metric units, SI units and the 24-hour clock are preferred. Numerals up to 10 should be spelt, those over 10 typed as figures. Use the approved names of drugs, though proprietary names may follow in brackets. Avoid abbreviations.

References should be in the Vancouver style as used in the *Journal*. Their accuracy must be checked before submission. The title page, figures, tables, legends and references should all be on separate sheets of paper.

Two copies of each article should be submitted, with a stamped addressed envelope, and the author should keep a copy. One copy will be returned if the paper is rejected.

All articles and letters are subject to editing. The copyright of published material is vested in the *Journal*.

Papers are refereed before acceptance.

Advertising enquiries

Display advertising enquiries should be addressed to: Mr Brian Palphramand, Marketing Director, Findlay Publications Ltd., Franks Hall, Horton Kirby, Kent DA4 9LL. (Tel. 0322 77755).

Classified advertising enquiries should be addressed to: Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners, 8 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JE. (Tel. 031-225 7629).

Circulation

The Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners is published monthly and is circulated to all Fellows, Members and Associates of the Royal College of General Practitioners, and to private subscribers. The annual subscription is £55 post free (£60 sterling or \$100 overseas), and includes the *Reports from General Practice* and *Journal Supplements* when published.

Subscription enquiries

Subscription enquiries should be made to The Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU. Telephone: 01-581 3232.

Correspondence and enquiries to the Editor

All correspondence to the Editor should be addressed to: The Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners, 8 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JE. Telephone: 031-225 7629.

Where photographic or other illustrated material is being presented, candidates should have undertaken the original photographic or drawing work, but can have received professional help in its development and final production.

The applicants may submit their own name and material. Alternatively, any Fellow, Member or Associate of the College who has been attracted by particular articles or lectures may encourage the authors (provided they are eligible) to submit their material for adjudication.

The material should be sent by registered post to: Dr H.D.R. Munro, Honorary Secretary, Scottish Council, The Royal College of General Practitioners, 2 Hill Square, Edinburgh EH8 9DR, from whom further information may be obtained.

The closing date for the competition is 31 July 1985.

The Mike Crawford Memorial Fund

The Executive Committee of the Liverpool Division of the British Medical Association, together with the Liverpool Local Medical Committee and the Board of the Merseyside and North Wales Faculty of the RCGP, consider that there should be a permanent memorial to the late Dr G.E. (Mike) Crawford. They have decided that it would be appropriate to identify a section of the Library in the Liverpool Medical Institution with his name.

Mike Crawford served the profession for over 20 years and was active on all three committees supporting this memorial fund. He was President of both the Liverpool Division and the Mersey Regional Council of the BMA and Chairman and Provost of the Faculty Board of the RCGP. In addition he was a member of the Council of the BMA for 15 years. His greatest achievements were as Chairman of the Private Practice Committee of the BMA, an office he held at the time of his death even during the painful stages of his terminal illness. The improvements in pay which he obtained considerably enhanced the basis on which subsequent increments have been made. As a result doctors in all disciplines have benefited from his efforts.

The money raised will be used to purchase books, predominantly, but not necessarily, related to general practice. Contributions of not more than £5.00 are invited and should be sent to: The President, BMA Mersey Regional Council, 22 Oxford Street, Liverpool L7 7BL. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Mike Crawford Memorial Fund'. To reduce costs individual acknowledgements will not be sent unless requested.

DIARY DATES

34th International Congress on General Practice of the SIMG

The 34th International Congress of the Societas Internationalis Medicinæ Generalis (SIMG) will be held from 16-21 September 1985, at Klagenfurt University, Austria.

The topics to be covered will include: psychosomatically ill patients in general practice, 16 September; Diagnostic problems

in general practice, 17 September; The patient overcoming disease and the help of the family doctor, 18 September; Research in general practice, 19 September; Quality of life, 20 September and The methodology of drug research in general practice in various countries, 21 September.

The languages spoken at the congress will be German on 16, 17 and 18 September, English-German on 19 September and English-French-German on 20 and 21 September, with simultaneous translations.

The registration fees for the congress are as follows:

	SIGM Members and hospital doctors	Non-members of the SIMG
September 16-21	AS 800/£31 Sterling	AS 1400/£54 Sterling
September 16-18 or 19-21	AS 500/£19 Sterling	AS 800/£31 Sterling
One day card	AS 200/£8 Sterling	AS 300/£12 Sterling
Entire congress for speakers	AS 200/£8 Sterling	
Entire congress for students	AS 100/£4 Sterling	

Relatives of the participants have free entry. In case of registration after 15 August 1985, there will be a 10 per cent surcharge. AS = Austrian Shillings.

For further information on this congress please contact: Mrs Sigrid Taupe, Secretariat of the SIMG, A-9020 Klagenfurt, Bahnhofstrabe 22, Austria. Tel: (0 42 22) 55 4 49.

A new sort of Annual Symposium — a shift to active learning

The 1985 Annual Symposium, to be held at the Barbican Conference Centre on Friday 8 November 1985, is entitled 'Quality: what is it and what stops you providing it?' It will be based on small group work in which members will use their own practice experience to work out ways in which to define quality and identify those factors which inhibit its achievement.

Remember the great Northern dictum 'Nowt's for nowt': members attending will be expected to have done two preparatory tasks as a basis for their group work. The morning is to be on 'quality of care in arthritis' and for that participants will be asked to write a description of their goal in the care of patients with arthritis and review the care of two patients with arthritis to see if their goals were achieved. The afternoon is to be on 'quality in prescribing' and participants will be sent a simple encounter form for recording very simply 50 consecutive consultations in terms of type of drug prescribed. These will be collected at registration, computer analysed on site and fed back to groups as a basis for their afternoon's work.

It will not only be group work; short opening talks by appropriate experts will provide a stimulus, and each session will be summed up by another distinguished doctor who will have circulated among the groups.

So if you do not like sitting, arms folded in serried ranks, being lectured at, but do like learning from your peers, and are prepared to invest a bit of preparatory effort, this is the meeting for you.

For further details and an application form please write to: Mrs Sue Smith, Education Division, The Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

disciplines (including electrocardiography and some imaging techniques). The approach is that of a physician in a UK district general hospital and his choice of material has been dictated largely by the 'needs of a house officer looking at the evening laboratory reports'.

The introduction is devoted to principles of diagnosis. This is then followed by five chapters which deal with biochemical tests associated with problems such as electrolyte and acid-base disturbances. A more disease-orientated approach is employed for microbiological topics and several chapters deal with endocrine and metabolic diseases. There are chapters on haematology, drugs and other topics for which the clinician may seek help from his laboratory colleague. Included as appendices are a short bibliography, units of measurement and conversion factors (for those like the reviewer who were brought up in an era before SI units).

This is not an easy book to read; it cannot be assimilated from cover to cover at one sitting. It is not really a reference book either as some aspects of laboratory work are not mentioned (for example, work on circulating immune complexes or pathological histology) and there is the occasional inaccuracy (Figure 17.1a makes more sense viewed upside down). Nevertheless for the senior house officer — and possibly more senior hospital colleagues — this book meets a real need as few clinicians can be expected to hold this volume of data in their memories.

How useful is it for the general practitioner? Primary care usage of the laboratory is governed by considerations rather different from those influencing the hospital specialist. For example, the general practitioner may need to know immediately if a patient is anaemic whereas the consultant is likely to require more detailed information. In pragmatic terms, this book is unlikely to contribute significantly to the management of day-to-day problems posed by general practice care of individual patients. Nevertheless, it is the sort of publication which affords interested general practitioners some insight into what the laboratories may have to offer and what tests may be required in the treatment of their patients. Even at this level, the book is good value for money.

J.D.E.K.

Do regulations pertaining to staff dismissal or statutory sick pay perplex you? If so, *Employing staff* is the book for you. It is a nonpareil of simple baseline literature on employment law, and is written with the general practitioner in mind.

In his preface Stephen Lock (Editor of the *British Medical Journal*) points out 'in the last twenty years no fewer than 14 acts of Parliament have been passed on employment law', and the book goes through these laws, presenting and interpreting them in a very understandable style.

The chapters most useful to doctors are those on recruitment and dismissal of ancillary staff, and a lucid section on statutory sick pay. Some excellent advice on employees contracts is given. Other aspects of employment law which are covered are absence from work, rights of expectant mothers and health and safety at work.

The book is easy to read, concise, and extremely good value. It is a must for every practice bookshelf.

D.A.C.

BOOKS RECEIVED

NOCTURNAL ASTHMA

International Congress and Symposium Series, number 73
P.J. Barnes and J. Levy (Eds), *The Royal Society of Medicine*, London, 1984. 120 pages. Price £12.50.

MANUAL OF CARDIAC DRUG THERAPY

M.I. Gabriel Khan, *Ballière Tindall*, London, 1984. 259 pages. Price £8.50.

RADIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

A guide to the use of medical imaging in clinical practice
Hiram Baddeley, *John Wiley*, Chichester, 1984. 411 pages. Price £32.50.

AIDS TO ORTHOPAEDICS

Malcolm F. MacNicol, *Churchill Livingstone*, Edinburgh, London, 1984. 193 pages. Price £4.50.

ALCOHOL AND THE FETUS. A CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE

Henry L. Rosett and Lyn Weiner, *Oxford University Press*, 1984. 220 pages. Price £20.00.

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS. THE TREATMENT CONTROVERSY

David Goddard and Robin Butler (Eds), *Macmillan*, London, 1984. 166 pages. Price £27.00.

EATING DISORDERS, THE FACTS

Susanne Abraham and Derek Llewellyn-Jones, *Oxford University Press*, 1984. 162 pages. Price £6.95.

ANTI COAGULANTS AND MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION. A REAPPRAISAL

T.W. Meade (Ed), *John Wiley*, Chichester, 1984. 272 pages. Price £28.50.

DISORDERS OF CARDIAC RATE, RHYTHM AND CONDUCTION

Hamish Watson, *Beaconsfield Publishers*, Beaconsfield, Bucks, 1985. 218 pages. Price £12.95.

GO ON, I'M LISTENING. ALL THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A DOCTOR'S DAILY LIFE

Robert Russell, *Pan Books*, London, 1984. 224 pages. Price £1.75.

SABBATICALS

British company working in developing countries, especially in Africa and the Far East, on large agro-industrial projects, requires assistance both with long-term and holiday relief medical service.

Each rural estate has a medical officer and staff serving a local and expatriate labour force of approximately 2000 personnel together with families. Tours are usually for 10 months with two months leave.

This opportunity could be of particular interest to large practices able to release partners sequentially for up to a year, or cover for leave periods with short locums of approximately two months. Some prior tropical experience would be helpful.

Arrangements are flexible. Partnerships as well as individuals wishing to discuss either type of arrangement should contact: Dr Alan McEwan, OBE, FRCGP, DTM&H, 100 Harley Street, London W1. Tel. 01-935 9463.

MRCGP CANDIDATES

Practice exams now available. Two MCQ papers (120 questions) covering the new subject areas as required by the Royal College. (This includes social and legal aspects, epidemiology, statistics and practice organization.) Answers and detailed teaching explanations provided together with computer sheets and free marking service. MEQ and TEQ papers have sample answers, explanations, marking schedules references and practical examination advice. Also hints on log diary, oral and reading suggestions. Send cheque now for £17.50 plus 75p p & p.

PASSTEST

Dept. GP PasTest Service, PO Box 81,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1UR
Tel. Hemel Hempstead (0442) 52113

American/English general practitioner's daughter seeks summer/autumn au pair work: Good with children, likes to cook. Write to: S. Style, 2 Hancock Hill Dr., Worcester MA 01609, USA.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD CHAIR OF GENERAL PRACTICE

Applications are invited for this newly established Chair in the Department of Community Medicine, tenable from 1 October 1985.

The holder of the Chair will be responsible for the promotion of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and for developing the research interests of the sub departments of general practice. The successful candidate will be invited to join a general practice in the city as an active Principal. The aggregate remuneration will be equivalent to that for clinical academic staffing holding honorary contracts with the NHS.

Further particulars from the Personnel Department (Academic Staffing), University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, to whom applications (1 copy) should be sent by 17 May 1985.

ASSOCIATESHIP of the Royal College of General Practitioners

Any doctor who is registered or provisionally registered with the General Medical Council may become an Associate of the College without having to pass an examination. Associates may take part in all College activities but are not able to describe themselves as MRCGP or to vote at general meetings. Together with Members and Fellows they undertake to uphold and promote the aims of the College to the best of their ability and, while in active practice, to continue as far as practicable approved postgraduate study.

The benefits of Associateship include:

1. A sense of belonging to an organization dedicated to improving the standards of care in general practice.
2. Membership of a local faculty of the College, and participation in its activities including education and research.
3. Access to the services of the College library. This is probably the most extensive library of general practice in the world and is staffed by librarians used to handling enquiries from general practitioners. *New reading for general practitioners* is produced quarterly for those who wish to keep up to date with the growing literature of general practice.
4. The *Journal* (the oldest journal of original general practice research), its associated publications and monographs.
5. Eligibility to compete for certain awards, prizes and fellowships available only to College Fellows, Members and Associates.
6. The use of College Headquarters at 14 Princes Gate, and in particular of the comfortable bed and breakfast accommodation it provides in central London at very reasonable rates.

Details of the entrance fee and current annual subscription are available on request by completing the form below. Reduced rates are available to several categories of doctor, particularly those undergoing vocational training for general practice.

To the Membership Secretary
The Royal College of General Practitioners
14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park
London SW7 1PU. Tel: 01-581 3232

Please send me an application form to become an Associate

Name

Address

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